

**SOUTH PASADENA LOCAL HISTORY  
SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY MATERIALS  
SUBJECT: GARFIELD PARK**

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# GARFIELD PARK A PART OF HISTORIC GROUND

Garfield park, which probably will be acquired by the city of South Pasadena as a public recreation place, is on historic ground. A little over seventy-two years ago it was the camping place and last stand of the defeated and retreating army of the Mexicans or old Californians. Here it was that the leaders of this decimated band of Mexicans arranged for surrender of their forces and the whole California country to the United States.

These stirring scenes were enacted on January 9 and 10, 1847, and marked the end of Mexican rule. General Flores retired as governor of California and was superseded by General John C. Fremont, who was then descending upon Los Angeles by way of San Fernando.

It has been erroneously stated that the old adobe, in pre-war times occupied as a home by Jose Perez, was the temporary residence of General Fremont and that the treaty was signed there. It was the headquarters of the Mexican officers, who arranged the terms of surrender. General Fremont went direct to Los Angeles and took charge of affairs there.

Here in Garfield park, however, in the early days of January, 1847, the remnant of the Mexican army, discouraged and with many wounded, awaited the decision, which was the beginning of a new era for California. A few days before these soldiers, numbering several hundred, had sallied forth from the pueblo of Los Angeles to meet the approaching forces of Commodore Stockton, who was coming from a point near Whittier on the San Gabriel river.

The Mexicans consisted of picked horsemen, in gaily bedecked serapes and with tinkling cymbals. Their lances glinted in the sun, but they were but poorly equipped with fire arms and ammunition. They made a spectacular attack on the well trained army of marines led by Commodore Stockton, but were repulsed again and again with disastrous losses. This conflict took place on Laguna ranch, and the fleeing Mexicans took refuge in the hills to the north, camping at the foot of Raymond hill and among the oaks of Garfield Park. The officers

sheltered themselves in the Jose Perez adobe.

Among the Mexican leaders were a few sought particularly by Commodore Stockton, and he had promised to execute them for alleged violation of the rules of war. Those marked for punishment were General Flores, who was governor of California, and General Garfias. They invested General Don Andres Pico and others with the authority to make a treaty, and with a few followers made their escape in to Mexico.

Emissaries were sent out to meet General Fremont, and the terms of capitulation and surrender were arranged in the vicinity of Verdugo. In the meantime sentinels were stationed on Raymond hill and on the hills of Lincoln park to guard against the approach of Commodore Stockton's forces, which were taking possession of Los Angeles.

After a few days camping under the old oaks of what is now known as Garfield park, the Mexicans returned to their homes to accept the new order of things, and their dream of empire had vanished forever. It had been contemplated, with plans maturing, to form a great colonization project and bring several thousand immigrants from Ireland, presumably in the interest of Great Britain, which coveted control of the southwest.

It is peculiarly fitting that Garfield park, with its historical and sentimental associations, should become a part of the public park system of South Pasadena and be preserved as nearly as possible with its natural features. The Rendezvous club of South Pasadena has rendered the city a valuable service in advocating and promoting the acquisition of the property for the purposes mentioned.

The old Perez adobe ranch house has passed through many hands during the last seventy-two years but has been kept in a good state of preservation. It has been purchased recently by Mrs. Clara E. Noyes of 604 Milan avenue, who will remodel and restore it, making many improvements on the grounds, which consist of two acres at the present time.

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## Pond *by John Forsha*

I spent most of my young growing  
up life in South Pasadena. As a  
boy, the best and greatest part of the  
world outside my family's neatly

fenced yard, was just across the street  
in Garfield Park. Thus, when the  
subject of the park surfaced during a  
staff meeting as potential editorial



MEMORIES-Sally Forsha, the author's mother fondly remembers the pond that used to be  
on this spot in Garfield Park. These old stone seats and some jumbled river rocks are all  
that remain of South Pasadena's *Walden*.

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copy, I had to admit that I knew  
where it was.

This, as it turns out, is all that a  
lot of people know about Garfield  
Park. The "where" is easy. The  
how's, who's and why's proved to  
be strangely obscure for something  
as large as a park.

We know the city obtained the  
property from the Southern Pacific  
Railroad in 1920, but there are evi-  
dently no records of this transaction.  
It seems the roof on the old city hall  
leaked badly and most of the files  
prior to 1970 were so severely water  
damaged that they were deemed not  
worth saving.

All the local archivists and his-  
torians mention Garfield Park in  
varying contexts without ever touch-  
ing upon the one obvious question  
that a kid like me would have asked,  
"Who built the nifty pond?"

"What pond?"

"Well, it's not there anymore,"  
but it used to be the most wonderful

See Pond, Page 42

## Pond, From Page 16

magical place a small boy with a hyperactive imagination could wish for.

We all have memories that crackle in our mind's-eye like crisp new money, with a sharpness and clarity that is stunning over the years. My memories of Garfield Park and the pond are such. The pond was very much a man-made structure, and must have involved considerable engineering skill to re-channel and "plumb" the existing stream that used to meander through the park. It was a terraced oval of river rock and concrete nestled in the gully at the foot of Hope Street, which, at the time, proceeded through the park to Stratford.

At its upper end was a small, round catch pool surrounded by a path and three stone love seats. Water rushed from the pool down a short cascade into the lower main pond. At the foot of the pond, a concrete spillway and drain swallowed the water as miraculously as it had appeared in the upper pool.

My mother remembers the pond. It was part of the landscape when she was a little girl in the 1920s. She remembers the stone love seat from when she was slightly older, but that is her business.

Anyway, that's the adult picture. My inner idiot child still sees a muddy, reed-choked, tadpole infested pond simply teeming with life. Metallic dragonflies darted and hovered over a thicket of reeds so dense that the pond's center appeared solid. This, much to the dismay of many mothers whose children gave it a go, and returned home encased in mud, was not the case.

I imagine that when the pond was built, it was a tidy, sparkling pool with a decorative stone border and some tasteful water lilies floating as ducks paddled about contentedly. Hell, maybe even a swan or two — the perfect spot to spread a blanket by the water's edge and unpack a picnic hamper while someone strummed softly on a banjo.

By the time I arrived on the scene, many years of zero upkeep and neglect had taken their toll, and the artificial structure had been reclaimed by the natural — dare I say it — ecosystem. And nature-wise, the joint was jumping. Jumping with spiders, insects, fish, frogs, lizards, birds and, best of all, crawdads.

From little, almost transparent babies, to giant lobster-like old-timers, all green-brown armor and dangerous pinchers, the pond was full of them.

What, you may ask, does a child do with a crawdad? Lots, but first you've got to catch one. I'd finagle a piece of bacon from my mom for bait, grab some string and be off to the pond to toss in my line and wait, with less than Hemingwayesque aplomb, for some action.

Pretty soon, a crawdad would tip-toe out of the weeds, antenna a-twitter, to investigate. I'd wait 'til he'd grasped the bait in his pinchers and then flip him out on the bank. Then it was simple to pick him up behind the reach of those dangerous pinchers, and either pop him in a can for later, or dash off looking for someone to bother with his ferocious display.

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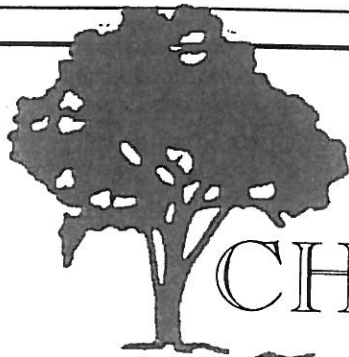





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Sometimes we'd choose up sides for a crawdad war. This involved considerable stockpiling of live ammunition, kept in tin silos. Preparedness was all. One had to maintain a good first strike potential while keeping an eye on the delicate balance of power. Pretty heady stuff. As they say, war is hell!

But, it wasn't the games that mattered, it was the pond itself. The pond was a living, breathing thing. It was larger than us kids, and bore our poking and digging at its vitals with total indifference. Like another pond of much wider fame, it was a metaphor for grander things, and good lessons were learned there.

Sometime, during the 50s, when my back was turned and I was too grown up to care anymore, they removed the pond. My pond.

I have often blamed "them" for a lot of my disappointments in life.

"Wow, that's too bad! Who did it?"

"You know . . . them!"

"Bummer!"

Well, it seems there was a lot of loose talk of the pond being: dangerous, unsanitary, a breeding ground for insect pests and a public nuisance. Of course, they were right. It was all of those things. It was an ungroomed, natural place.

Today, I could well imagine our Freeway Fighters wearing "Save the Pond" T-shirts and threatening to lie down in front of the anti-preservationist bulldozers.

Meanwhile, at City Hall the records are consistently absent. The files documenting the why's, when's and wherefore's of the pond's destruction, and the closing of Hope Street, are all gone. It's as if the pond never existed. But, if you know where to look, you can still find those old stone and concrete love seats. And you can sit and wait a spell.

*My best guess is that the pond and the stone bridge to be found further south in the park were a part of the Raymond Hotel grounds and landscaping and would probably date back over 100 years to the 1885 construction. The river rock construction in the park is similar to the old Raymond Waiting Station at Fair Oaks and Columbia.*

*Jutzi, From Page 7*

Henry E. Huntington, but many have been donated since his death in 1927.

One collection of 8,000 old medical books came from the L.A. County Medical Association in 1992.

Another collection was specifically about Robin Hood. Starting in the early 1800s, the Robin Hood collection contains books such as "Anecdotes of Archers," the predecessor of comic books in the form of one-penny, printed tales of the legendary figure; poems about Robin Hood; songs; ballads; playbills from plays about

him; a copy of an opera; and special wood engravings.

Jutzi tells of the Lincoln exhibit currently at the Library and the exhibit about King Arthur planned for sometime in the future.

He seems to be simultaneously working on 100 different projects — all interesting.

Surrounded by rare books and people who enjoy books, coupled with the luxurious Huntington location brings a new meaning to the quote from Erasmus, "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."



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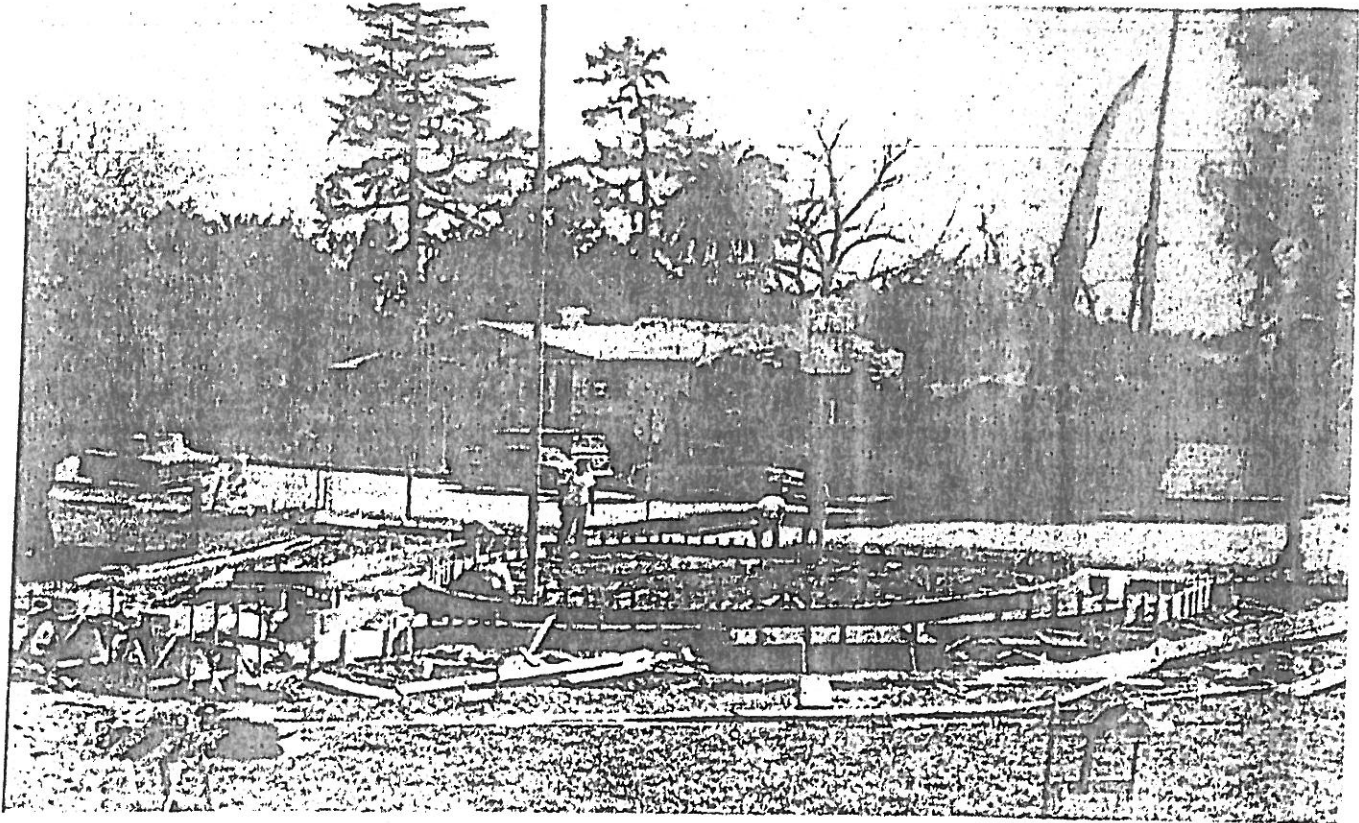
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IS IT ROSES YET?—Work continues on the Margaret and Clifford M. Hughes Rose Garden in Garfield Park. Rose garden is a gift to South Pasadena from the Hughes estate.

Photo by John Forsha

## Pacific Asia Museum Seeks Volunteers

The Pacific Asia Museum Bookstore is seeking volunteers to work in all facets of the operation of the museum store. Cashier and retail experience is helpful, but not required. Volunteers will be trained. Volunteer hours are flexible. High school

and college students are encouraged to volunteer.

Housed in one of Pasadena's architectural and cultural gems, the bookstore features materials on the arts, philosophy and history of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The bookstore also sells

souvenir items, jewelry, textiles, posters, crafts and children's books.

Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 North Los Robles Avenue, one half block north of Colorado Boulevard in downtown Pasadena.

For more information on bookstore volunteer opportunities call Rebekah Gibson at (818) 449-2742, extension 14.

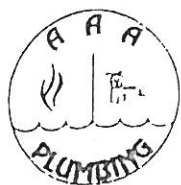
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another customer, police say one of the suspects demanded money using a simulated gun. The suspects then ran from the store with \$541.50 in cash before driving off in a 1996 Ford compact vehicle.

Police said they were unable to get a clear description of the second suspect, but a witness at the scene noted the license plate number and police were able to pull fingerprints off the magazine left behind. Police report the suspects, both described as black males, approximately 6-feet, 180 pounds, have not yet been brought into

1600 block of Raymond Hill Road.

Police arrested two individuals Friday night for possession of narcotics after they were stopped for a minor traffic violation at the corner of Monterey Road and Meridian Avenue. Arrested were an Hispanic 20-year-old male and 19-year-old female, both from Los Angeles. Police say they found rock cocaine, a pipe, mirror and razor blades under the passenger seat of the vehicle when the arrest was made.

Police report an attempted robbery was made last Thurs-

he was given a \$10 bill, not a \$100. When the teller summoned a manager, the suspect fled the bank on foot.

An attempted robbery was also reportedly made at Joe's Chevron, 1200 Fair Oaks Avenue, at 1 a.m. on January 19. According to police, the suspect,

See Robbery, Page 7

non see recently gliary. seconded the resu bilitation had been part of t Man audies

## SPPD Chief Mahoney Retires; Effective April 1

It was announced last Thursday that South Pasadena Police Chief Thomas Mahoney will retire from the department on April 1.

This news follows closely a letter of termination which was sent to Mahoney by City Manager Sean Joyce apparently the day after the city council voted on a new policy for disciplining

or discharging chiefs of police.

Mahoney, who has been on paid leave since August 14, 1996, had filed a worker's compensation claim for stress related gastrointestinal distress.

His last day on the payroll will be February 15, and he will begin receiving retirement benefits on April 1.

Alluding to his having grown up in South Pasadena, David Saeta's literature proclaims him to be "the home town choice" in his bid for City Council. Saeta graduated from SPIIS in 1977, and moved back here after graduate school with his wife, Leslie, to raise their three young sons in this "wonderful, small town environment."

Adamantly opposed to the freeway, Saeta supports the position currently proposed by the City; ie., the multi-modal, low build alternative. Other points of the Saeta campaign are to provide the vision and leadership for an ethically and

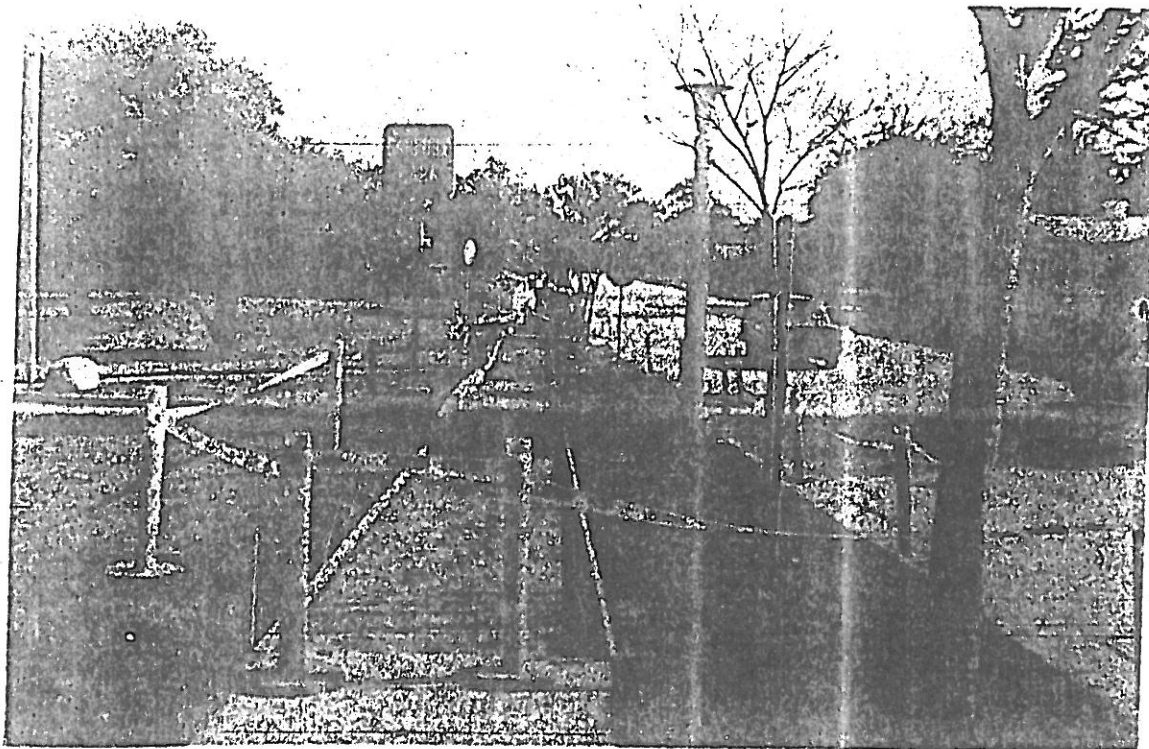
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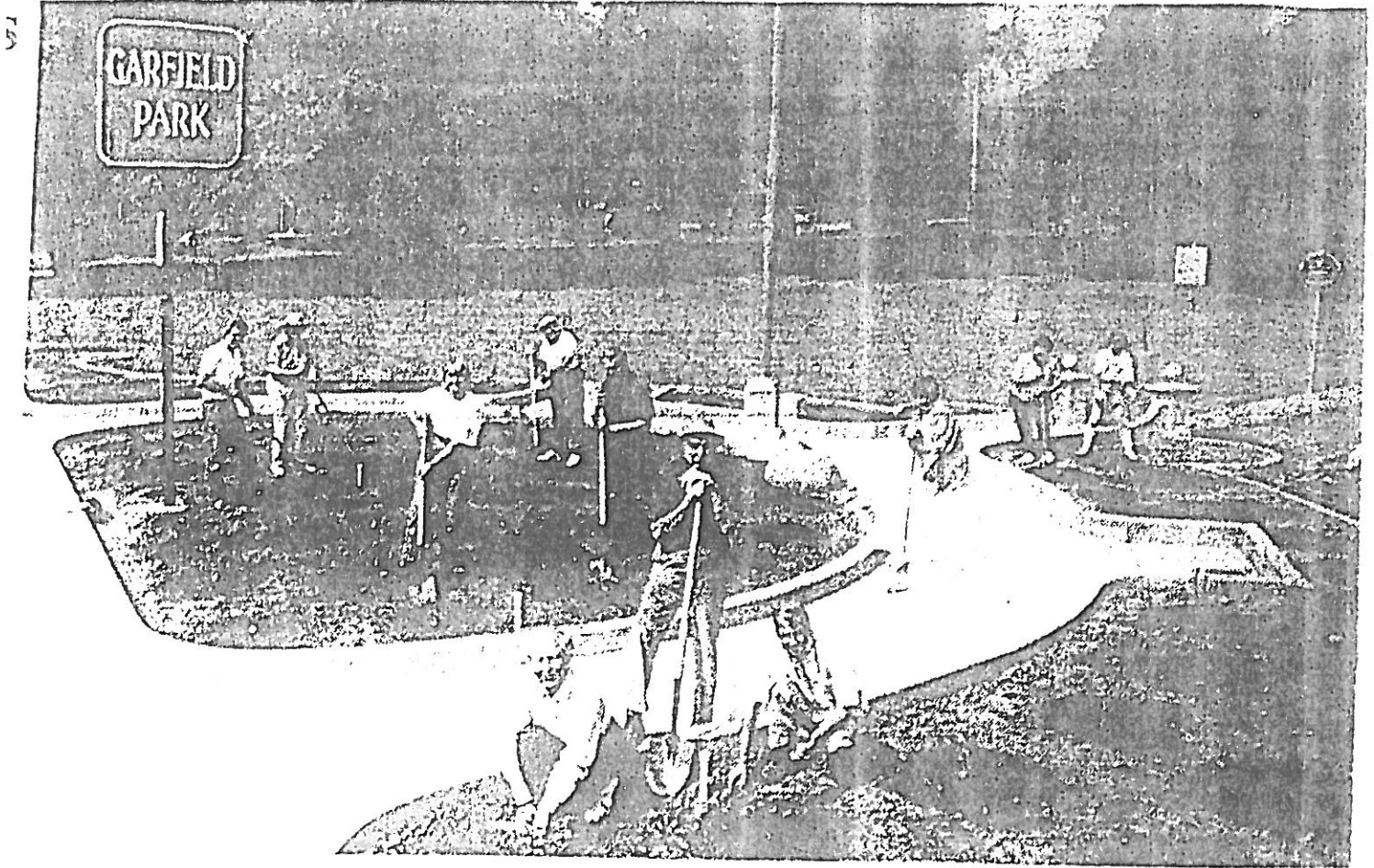
Last that the vestigat possible arising f of a hit-off-duty officer S On Ziegler v Avenue parked Colatrin drove aw



COMING UP ROSES, SOON—Work has started on the Clifford and Margaret Hughes Memorial Rose Garden in Garfield Park. The Hughes' were active in South Pasadena beautification projects, and bequeathed funds for the rose garden.

Photo by John Forsha





**ROSES ARE COMING**—One hundred roses were planted last week in the Hughes Rose Garden in Garfield Park. A bequest from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Hughes was the basis for the project. South Pasadena Beautiful planters are, first row, left to right: Pam Hames, Bob Tryon and Ed Setzler. Second row, left to right: Mary O'Connell, Eleanor Johnson, Irving Rector and Toby Hayes. Third row, left to right: Ed Markytan, Helen Pekny, Janet Van Sant and Linda Setzler.

*Photo by Henk Friezer*

## Hughes Memorial Rose Garden Planted

One hundred roses were planted last week in the reconstructed and expanded garden at the entrance to Garfield Park.

The garden is a South Pasadena Beautiful project as a memorial to Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Hughes, long time mem-

bers and supporters of South Pasadena Beautiful. A bequest from the Hughes is the basis for the project. Benches and a pergola will be added as future donations are received.

Robert Tryon donated the architectural plans for the total project. The selection of roses was planned by Susan ten Grotenhuis. The roses include, Sun

Flare, Touch of Class, Tiffany, Tournament of Roses, Bewitched, French Lace, Double Delight, Mon Cherie and Joseph's Coat. Frank Burkard (Burkards Nursery) supervised the plantings.

There will be a dedication of the Memorial Garden on May 4, at 2 p.m. at the site.

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## Mayo Keystone, Longtime Resident, Dies at 93



ries of burglaries were related. Two of the burglaries occurred in the golf course parking lot on Friday. At 1:10 p.m. police received word that \$200 in cash and an ATM card were taken from a 1992 Ford Taurus. Just after 5:30 p.m. it was reported that \$170 in cash had been stolen from a 1993 Acura.

A blank check, an ATM card, an American Express card and \$60 in cash were allegedly stolen from a 1992 Mazda parked in the golf course parking lot at 10 p.m. last Thursday. The loss is reportedly unknown after a 1991 Honda Accord parked in the lot was broken into at approximately 2:30 p.m. last Wednesday.

On Tuesday, April 29, a radar detector and a purse, were reported to be taken from a 1995 Mitsubishi parked in the lot close to 4 p.m. Police say the total loss in the burglary was over \$600.

In other auto burglaries last week, police report that a pair of \$400 speakers were stolen from a 1989 Honda CRX parked at the corner of Meridian Avenue and Kendall Avenue on Sunday morning. On Tuesday, April 29, \$120 in cash was reported stolen from a 1990 Plymouth Voyager parked in the 1400 block of

bike was reported stolen from the 1000 block of Orange Grove Avenue at 6 p.m.

There was one reported stolen vehicle during the week. A week ago, a 1994 Mazda Protege was allegedly taken from the parking lot at the Wild Thyme Restaurant at 805 Fair Oaks Avenue.

Police are looking for three suspects in connection to a re-

Accord. The one suspect making the demands was described as a 18-20 year old Hispanic, approximately 5-foot-9, 140 pounds, with a shaved head. Police said he was wearing a gray shirt at the time of the robbery. A second suspect was described as 18-20 years old while the third could not be

See Police, Page 13

## Alhambra Files Two 710 Fwy Suits Against Feds.

In an effort to get an answer on the long-awaited decision to build the Long Beach (710) Freeway extension, the City of Alhambra has filed two lawsuits against the federal government, according to a published report in the *Pasadena Star-News*.

The City of Alhambra, according to the *Star-News* report, has filed a pair of lawsuits through its attorneys last September, making the claim that the city has suffered from smog, traffic congestion and deaths as a result of the 6.2-mile project not being constructed after 24 years.

Alhambra officials report-

edly filed a \$50 million damage claim, contending the city spends in excess of \$380,000 a year on roadway maintenance. Alhambra officials say the lack of the freeway extension causes 100,000 vehicles to travel on its streets daily.

A second suit according to the published report challenges the 20-mile Alameda Corridor, a \$1.9 rail-to-road project prepared to open in 2001. It has already gained state and federal approval. Alhambra officials claim the project will drastically increase truck traffic through the city.

THE W ANOTHER CRAWDAD ON THE last weekend's Mission West Arts and Cr

## SPFD Participa

The South Pasadena Fire Department recently participated in a brush fire training program held at the Pasadena Race Bowl. Fire Departments from all over Southern California showed off the latest equipment available to us because of the extensive mutual aid programs in this area.

The brush fire season has started very early this year and all residents are urged to clear

## Engineers' 710 Alternative

Residents and leaders in the communities of Alhambra, El Sereno, South Pasadena and Pasadena are invited to inspect an innovative plan to complete the 710 Freeway between the I-10 and the I-210 Freeways.

The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Arroyo Vista School, 335 El Centro Street, on Thursday, May 15, to view and study the Compromise Route and Plan from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 7:30 p.m. a short presentation of the background of the development of the Com-

See Plan, Page 13

## Hughes Rose Presented

The Hughes Rose Garden at Garfield Park was dedicated and presented to the City on Sunday, May 4, following the annual meeting of South Pasadena Beautiful.

Mayor Paul Zee accepted the gift on behalf of the City from South Pasadena President Pam Hames. The dedication was well attended by community Members, the Hughes family and friends.

Robert Tryon was lauded for his vision and design of the site and the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra of Pasadena provided music in the interval between the annual meeting and the dedication.



A PROMISED ROSE GARDEN—Following its annual meeting on May 4, South Pasadena Beautiful dedicated the Hughes Rose Garden in Garfield Park to the City of South Pasadena. Pictured above are, left to right: Susan ten Grotenhuis, Pam Hames, LeRoy Hughes, Mayor Paul Zee, Petrie Wilson and Bob Tryon.

Photo by Henk Friezer

GARFIELD PARK

The South Pasadena Review and the South Pasadena Middle School wish to thank those who designed an Art Contest and for their donations to the school.

Granite State Bank

Chamber of Commerce

SOUTH PASADENA REVIEW  
MAY 7, 1997 P. 1